CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation, packaged into a sachet and administered orally after dispersing in water at therapeutic doses which comprises:

(a) alendronate microparticles coated with a polymer soluble at a gastric pH of 1 to 4, but insoluble at a salivary pH of 6 - 7.5, and uncoated alginic acid or sodium alginate or admixtures thereof in an amount therapeutically effective to prevent esophageal reflux, heartburn and esophagitis in a patient taking alendronate, where

(b) alendronate dissolves in 900 ml 0.1 N HCl at the rate of not less than 85% of within 30 minutes at the range of pH 1 - 4,

(c) the dispersion in a glass of 250 ml. water at the degree of 25°C contains no dissolved alendronate at pH 6 - 7.5 or at the most 10% w/v of alendronate dissolved in 3 minutes.

2. (Original) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, comprises lubricants, diluents, flavors and sweeteners or their mixture thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 2, where in the diluent is selected from the group consisting of lactose and microcrystalline cellulose or admixtures thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 2, where in the sweetener is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, potassium acesulfame, monoammonium glycyrrhizinate, sodium saccharine, sucrose and polyols, used alone or in combination.

5. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, where in the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polymethacrylates, polyvinyl acetate diethylaminoacetate and poly butyl methacrylate / 2-dimethylamino-ethyl methacrylate/methyl methacrylate copolymers or their mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, where in the polymer is Poly(butyl methacrylate, (2-dimethyl aminoethyl) methacrylate, methyl methacrylate) in a ratio of 1:2:1.

7. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, which is dispersed in a glass of 250 ml water at the degree of 25°C at pH 6 - 7.5, and which contains alendronate in between 0.001% w/v - 3% w/v.

8. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1 where in the alendronate is alendronate monosodium trihydrate.

9. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, which is dispersed in a glass of 250 ml. water at the degree of 25°C at pH 6 - 7.5, and which contains uncoated alginic acid or sodium alginate or their mixtures in between 0.001% w/v - 2% w/v.

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation, which is packaged into a sachet and orally administered after dispersing in water, which ~~consists essentially of~~ comprises: alendronate microparticles coated with a polymer insoluble at a salivary pH 6 to 7.5, but soluble at a gastric pH of 1 to 4 wherein the polymer comprises polybutyl methacrylate, (2-dimethylaminoethyl)methacrylate and methyl methacrylate in a 1:2:1 ratio; uncoated alginic acid or sodium alginate or admixtures thereof in an amount therapeutically effective to prevent esophageal reflux, heartburn and esophagitis in a patient taking alendronate; sucrose and sodium saccharine as sweeteners; microcrystalline cellulose as diluent; and colloidal silica as a lubricant, wherein the alendronate dissolves in 900 ml of 0.1N HCl at a rate of not less than 85% within 30 minutes at a pH of 1 to 4,

and wherein the resulting dispersion in water at 25°C contains either no dissolved alendronate at a pH of 6 to 7.5, or at most 10% w/of dissolved alendronate after 3 minutes.